Government of Saskatchewan

Annual Report 2004-2005

Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board

Saskatchewan Centennial 2005

Table of Contents

Letter of Transmittal from Minister 2

Letter of Transmittal from Board Chair 2

Overview 3

Board Organization 5

Board Members 2004-2005 7

The Multitype Library System 8

Key Results 2004-2005 11

Multitype Database Licensing Program 17

Current Products Licensed – Listed by Vendor 23

The Multitype Database Licensing Program Committee 24

MDLP Usage Statistics 25

This annual report is also available in electronic format from the Saskatchewan Libraries web site at **www.http://www.lib.sk.ca/staff/multitype**

Letters of Transmittal

His/Her Honour the Honourable Dr. Lynda M. Haverstock
Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

May It Please Your Honour:

I respectfully submit the Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2005.

Andrew Thompson
Minister of Learning

Honourable Andrew Thomson
Minister of Learning

May It Please Your Honour:

I respectfully submit the Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2005.

Frank Winter
Chair, Multitype Library Board

Overview

105-06523/

Our Heritage

Saskatchewan's early visionaries understood that libraries play an essential role in community development. Our first library was created to inform our most important public institution – the legislature. As early as 1906 – only one year after Saskatchewan became a province – Saskatchewan's leaders recognized the importance of public libraries to meet the information needs of all residents. The legislature passed *The Public Libraries Act*, which provided for the establishment of free libraries.

Saskatchewan now has about 320 public library locations, hundreds of school libraries, and more than 40 post-secondary and special libraries. Investment in Saskatchewan libraries over the last century has resulted in highly developed collections of print and electronic materials. They also participate in a sophisticated worldwide network of libraries that enables them to access library resources around the globe. Our libraries are a valuable investment, much of which has been made with public funds. They are a provincial resource to be used by citizens, as well as valued, preserved, and enhanced.

Saskatchewan is also enriched by a strong network of archival institutions and other information providers. Archives preserve the documented history of Saskatchewan and play an important role in education, research, and citizen access to Saskatchewan's recorded history.

Our development story is about hard work, collaboration, and interdependence. Early on, libraries depended on one another for development assistance and resource sharing. As a result, while libraries today belong to autonomous institutions and library systems, they regularly participate in joint policy and program development. And, inevitably changes in one library sector have a significant effect on other library sectors. The Multitype Library Board has the unique privilege of viewing the broad impact of libraries and information providers in Saskatchewan and helping them to grow. Its mandate is to facilitate co-operative working relationships among autonomous libraries and information providers in the multitype library system. The Board's primary vision is to increase access to information for Saskatchewan citizens and to increase the capacity and strength of libraries, archives, and information providers in our province.

Our 2004-05 Priorities

Libraries and information providers enrich their communities' social, cultural, and economic well being. Yet, they are so interwoven within the fabric of Saskatchewan life that at times their impact is almost invisible to the public. The Board's activities in 2004-05 focused on raising the profile of libraries and information providers and making their products and services more accessible to Saskatchewan citizens. Key highlights are:

- Created an engaging campaign to promote libraries. The campaign will be launched province-wide in September 2005, during centennial celebrations. It promotes libraries' online or "e-library" services. Campaign products, images and messaging were created with a single, consistent theme that can be used by all types of libraries in the province.

- Increased citizen access to quality information by working with Multitype Database Licensing partner libraries to jointly license three new electronic databases: *The Cochrane Library* (health research), *Canadian Research Index*, and *Canada Info Desk*. Saskatchewan citizens may search these databases, which are available through all public libraries in the province, as well as other Multitype Database Licensing Program partner libraries.

- Began developing a province-wide digitization strategy for libraries and information providers. Its purpose is to increase the profile of digital collections created by libraries, archives and other information providers; stimulate increased capacity to create quality digital collections; and increase citizen access to digital collections in Saskatchewan by making them easier to find and use.

- Identified key issues facing libraries and other information providers and developed strategies to address them.

Board Organization

Legislation

The Multitype Library Board is established under *The Libraries Co-operation Act.*

Mandate

The mandate of the Multitype Library Board is to facilitate the co-operative development of the multitype library system in Saskatchewan.

It does so by providing a forum for appointed representatives of library sectors and information providers in Saskatchewan to meet and discuss ways in which they can co-operate to enhance their capacity and services.

Representation

The minister appoints board members to represent library and information sectors. The following representation must be appointed:

- a library director from a public library or public library system;
- a library director from a school library or school library system;
- a library director from a post-secondary library or post-secondary library system;
- a library director from a special library or special library system;
- the Provincial Librarian;
- a person chosen from a list of persons nominated by the Saskatchewan Library Trustees Association;
- a person chosen from a list of persons nominated by the Saskatchewan School Boards Association;
- a person chosen from a list of persons nominated by the Saskatchewan Library Association;
- one other person employed by a post-secondary library in any capacity; and
- one other person employed by a special library in any capacity.

The minister may appoint any of the following representation:

- one person who is, or who is employed by, an information provider;
- one person appointed after consultation with the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association;
- one person appointed after consultation with the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities; and
- one or two other persons in consultation with the library community.

The role of board members is to consult with their library sector to ensure broad understanding of all sectors' needs and to enable full participation of all sectors in multitype initiatives.

Decision Making

As entrenched in *The Libraries Co-operation Act*, the Board uses consensus decision making. Consensus decision making recognizes the autonomy and individual responsibility of autonomous libraries and library systems represented on the Board.

Reporting

The Multitype Library Board advises and provides recommendations to the Minister responsible for libraries with respect to the development of the multitype library system.

It may also make recommendations to libraries and library systems concerning multitype library development.

Secretariat

The Provincial Library, a branch of Saskatchewan Learning, provides secretariat support to the Board.

Meeting Requirements

The Board is required by legislation to meet at least three time yearly. From April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005, the Board held three board meetings, one annual general meeting, and two digitization forums with the multitype library community:

May 31 – June 1, 2004 (Board meeting)
September 22-23, 2004 (Digitization Forum, Regina)
September 23-24, 2004 (Digitization Forum, Saskatoon)
November 8-9, 2004 (Board meeting)
February 9, 2005 (Board meeting)
February 10, 2005 (Annual General Meeting)

Board Members 2004-2005

Public Library Sector

Isabelle Butters, Former President, Saskatchewan Library Trustees Association, Weyburn; serving in the position of a person chosen from a list of persons nominated by the Saskatchewan Library Trustees Association.

Audrey Mark, Director, Pahkisimon Nuye·áh Library System, La Ronge; serving in the position of a library director from a public library or public library system.

School Library Sector

Stephanie Olson, Resource Based Learning Consultant and Teacher-Librarian, Thunder Creek School Division, Lindale School, Moose Jaw; serving in the position of a library director from a school library or school library system.

Lois Smandych, Southeast Branch Representative, Saskatchewan School Boards Association, Bredenbury; serving in the position of a person chosen from a list of persons nominated by the Saskatchewan School Boards Association.

Post-Secondary Education Library Sector

Rian Misfeldt, Program Head for Library Services, SIAST Wascana Campus, Regina; serving in the position of one other person employed by a post-secondary library in any capacity.

Frank Winter, Director, University of Saskatchewan Libraries, Saskatoon; serving in the position of a library director from a post-secondary library or post-secondary library system.

Special Library Sector

Lalita Martfeld, Library Technician, John Dolan Resource Centre, Saskatchewan Association for Community Living, Saskatoon; serving in the position of one other person employed by a special library in any capacity.

Brett Waytuck, Manager, Resource Centre Saskatchewan Health, Regina; serving in the position of a library director from a special library or special library system.

Information Providers

Carol Shepstone, Librarian/Research Officer, Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, Saskatoon; serving in the position of a person chosen from a list of persons nominated by the Saskatchewan Library Association.

Phyllis Lerat, University Librarian, First Nations University of Canada Library, Regina; representing Aboriginal Libraries.

Cheryl Avery, Head, University of Saskatchewan Archives, Saskatoon; representing the archives community.

Provincial Library

Joylene Campbell, Provincial Librarian; representing Saskatchewan Learning, Provincial Library, Regina.

The Multitype Library System

A multitype library system is a network of working relationships, between any combination of autonomous libraries and information providers, established to share services and resources for mutual benefit.

There are about 320 public libraries, hundreds of school libraries, and more than 40 post-secondary education and special libraries in Saskatchewan. Libraries and library systems in these sectors are autonomous and mandated to provide a clearly defined client group with a set of library services.

In a multitype library system, the jurisdictional boundaries and separate administrative structures of libraries and information providers remain intact, but co-operative initiatives and working relationships enable them to collectively acquire information products and develop services that they could not achieve independently.

The role of the Multitype Library Board is to find library needs that overlap and allow these areas of mutual need to be the basis for the development of co-operative policies and programs.

Vision

Access to information is a democratic right of all people in Saskatchewan.

Mission

Libraries in Saskatchewan will work together to maintain and enhance a co-operative interdependent information network which will ensure a consistent and high quality of information service through a multitype library system

Values

The multitype library system was founded on a set of values and principles. The Board has placed a high priority on living those values and Multitype has emerged as a model for bringing strong autonomous partners together in collaborative initiatives. As new partners come to the table, the Board plays a critical role in cultivating a shared understanding of these values.

Strong local autonomous library partners

A strong multitype library system rests on strong, local autonomous libraries and library systems. Partners look after their own development and issues of jurisdiction.

Decisions made by consensus

Decisions on matters of importance to all partners should be made in a manner which recognizes that all the partners must either agree with the decision or at least that they could accept or work within the decision.

Think globally ... search locally

Libraries work to share resources at a local level first, then regionally, provincially, nationally, and internationally.

The whole is greater than the sum of the parts

Autonomous library partners working together create a capacity for library service that is broader, more effective, and less costly than the partners could achieve individually.

Commitment to co-operation for mutual benefit

Co-operation is the cornerstone of the multitype library system. The reason people are willing to co-operate is that they see that things will work better if they do.

Organic development

Growth and development of multitype initiatives are based on what is possible for the partners. Multitype initiatives will be realized through people voluntarily working at the local level to develop what works for them.

Sustained attention

Continued effort is required to build a strong multitype library system. It must remain a high priority for each of the partners and it may mean marshalling resources to ensure that the system remains healthy as it develops.

Partners

The partners in the multitype library system include:

- the public, school, post-secondary education, and special library sectors;
- the Provincial Library, which has traditionally played a coordinating role in the Saskatchewan library community; and
- other information providers, such as archives, business resource centres, and Aboriginal libraries.

Each partner has a unique role, mandate and client group that it serves. Partners vary in size, structure, governance, facilities, resources, and functions. Each one must understand the nature of the differences as well as the similarities to co-operate more effectively.

Environmental Trends

In its Strategic Plan Update, the Board identifies several key trends that are and will continue to strongly influence the development of the multitype library system over the next few years.

Demographics

There is a growing sense of urgency to address the changing needs of an aging population, the rural/urban shift, an increase in Aboriginal/First Nations people, and the widening literacy divide in Saskatchewan.

Demand for on-line information & services

The growing demand for online information and a growing sophistication in how information is structured presents a number of issues: libraries' response to how they will organize, manage and archive information; the public's ability to access information; increased expectations that information will be provided in digitized form on the Internet; and, the need to reposition how libraries see themselves and are seen by the public.

Sharing of resources and services through partnerships

Increasingly, initiatives undertaken in Saskatchewan recognize the interconnectedness among sectors and the potential for mutual benefit. In the multitype library system this means ensuring there are common values for partnering at the local and provincial levels.

Increasing restrictions on access to information

The trend towards charging for information online and issues of ownership raises a number of questions and highlights libraries' role in advocating access to information for the public good.

Recruitment, retention and training

The struggle to recruit and retain qualified staff has become a national issue crossing many sectors of the economy. Saskatchewan libraries will require strategies to: attract new entrants and retain those currently in the workforce; ensure the competencies of information professionals are articulated and recognized; and, explore affordable, accredited and accessible distance education that would give Saskatchewan residents better access to librarianship education.

Key Results 2004-2005

The strategic directions, goals and objectives originally presented in *The Multitype Library Board Strategic Plan Update* are presented below, followed by a report on key results achieved in 2004-05. The Strategic Plan Update is a five year plan that was created in 2003, based on the framework of the original strategic plan developed in 1996 and in consultation with the library sectors. It has four strategic directions. Each strategic direction includes a series of goals and objectives, as well as performance indicators. The goals set out what the Board hopes to accomplish during the five-year period. The objectives are specific result statements that support the goals. The performance indicators define the outcome and are the basis for measuring and evaluating impact.

Strategic Direction 1 -- Develop the multitype system

Strengthen partners by developing co-operative strategies to address emerging issues. Nurture and build relationships.

The relationships that form a healthy multitype library system require ongoing development. A key role of the Multitype Library Board is to foster communication among the partners and awareness of the benefits of the multitype co-operation. The Board also ensures a responsive environment to partner needs by monitoring issues and trends that are affecting partners and identifying co-operative strategies to address them.

Performance Indicator

Strong, diverse, independent partners – with appropriate staffing, training, funding resources and facilities – contributing equitably to multitype initiatives.

Goal 1 – Actively involve communities of interest and educate members on multitype values and participation standards.

Objective 1 – Strengthen and expand the process to ensure participation of archives, Aboriginal libraries, and other information providers.

Objective 2 – Design an approach to support the creation of Multitype activities locally, regionally and provincially.

Objective 3 – Update the Board's communication strategy.

Key Results

- Involved the Saskatchewan archives community through archival representation on the Board. The board member representing archives has worked with the board, and the broader multitype community, to identify areas of need and interest that span both archives and libraries. Digitization has been identified as a potential area for fruitful collaboration.
- Educated the multitype community on digitization efforts in the Saskatchewan archival community. The president of the Saskatchewan Council of Archives and Archivists gave a presentation on this topic at the Annual General Meeting in February 2005.
- Invited Saskatchewan archives to attend the board's Digitization Forums, held in the fall of 2004, and several attended.
- Continued with Aboriginal libraries representation on the board. The board member for Aboriginal libraries is currently Phyllis Lerat, librarian at the First Nations University of Canada and a member of the Library Services for Saskatchewan Aboriginal People Committee.

- Encouraged the establishment of local multitype groups via a presentation by Eleanor Acorn, Director of the John M. Cuelenaere Public Library in Prince Albert, on "Creating a Multitype Library Group" at the Board's Annual General Meeting. She offered a model for how local libraries can create a multitype library group, based on her experience starting Prince Albert Libraries (PAL). She discussed the benefits of PAL and provided examples of their group's brochure and manual.

- Continued with communication activities including sending all stakeholders a communiqué following each meeting, sponsoring a session at the Saskatchewan Library Association Conference called "Expert Searching for Multitype Library Databases" and bringing partners together at the Annual General Meeting to review the vision and values of multitype and to discuss issues and strategies.

Goal 2 – Research and document emerging issues facing the partners and develop strategies to address.

Objective 1 -- Develop a strategy to address recruitment, retention and training needs of the partners as identified in the Report of the Multitype Public Relations Committee.

Objective 2 – Advance recommendations from the June 2002 discussion paper, *Saskatchewan Libraries Working Together.*

Key Results

- Supported the continuation of the Saskatchewan Libraries Education Bursary. On the recommendation of the Multitype Library Board, Provincial Library, the board's secretariat and a branch of Saskatchewan Learning, granted $10,000 to the Saskatchewan Libraries Education Bursary, administered by the Saskatchewan Library Association. This bursary awards $5,000 to a student enrolled in a Master of Library and Information Science program or equivalent, who is willing to return to work in Saskatchewan upon completion of the degree. The bursary was begun in 2002. The first two bursary recipients completed their degrees and are working in libraries in the province. Since the bursary was begun, Provincial Library, on the recommendation of the Board, has granted $60,000 in seed funding to the bursary program.

- Advanced recommendations in the Board's discussion paper, as follows:

  - In 2004-05, the Board achieved recommendation #1 in its discussion paper: develop "a province-wide strategy to promote library services to Saskatchewan residents." The Board created a Promotion Steering Committee and then, later, a Promotion Implementation Working Group to design a province-wide campaign promoting libraries. A campaign, including key messages, slogans, products, events, and activities, was developed. The campaign will be launched in partnership with all types of libraries in September 2005, during Centennial celebrations.

- Regarding recommendation #2 of its discussion paper (support for school libraries), the Board advised the Minister of Learning that school libraries in Saskatchewan are declining. The board recommended to the Minister that Saskatchewan Learning investigate how accountability measures and processes developed for the new school divisions might address the contribution school libraries make to student achievement. The Board cited a report entitled *The Crisis in Canada's School Libraries: The Case for Reform and Re-investment, by Dr. Ken Haycock*, which reports that student achievement on standardized tests tend to be 10 to 20 percent higher in schools with properly staffed libraries. More work is required to advance support for school libraries; the Board will continue this work next year.

- In 2004-05, the Board began working with the Saskatchewan Public Service Commission (PSC) to develop educational and competency guidelines for use when hiring information management professionals (recommendation #3 of the discussion paper). Representatives from the Board, Provincial Library, the PSC, and the library community are drafting guidelines. This work will carry forward to 2005-06.

- At the Annual General Meeting, a plenary discussion focused on updating the Board's discussion paper. Participants were asked to identify issues that are most important to them now. The two most crucial issues identified were: the perception that the internet replaces libraries; and support for school libraries.

Strategic Direction 2 – Implement the multitype library system.

Expand access to content, including digitized information; broaden multitype partnerships; and, build capacity of the partners.

The Board develops initiatives to enhance partner information services. The flagship initiative, the Multitype Database Licensing Program, has extended library collections through bulk purchasing subscriptions to electronic magazines, journals, and newspapers. Future endeavours will expand access to content – in particular through digitization of print collections – and will focus on involving other types of multitype partners in such projects.

Performance Indicator

Partners have the capacity to digitize information and have enhanced online collections that are utilized by the public.

Goal 1 – Develop strategies that enable partners to expand their collections and become central players in publicly accessible high quality information.

Objective 1 – Review the digitization report and develop a provincial strategy for multitype partners.

Objective 2 – Participate in innovation and learning initiatives.

Objective 3 – Conduct a formal evaluation of the multitype library system and initiatives.

Objective 4 – Continue to develop the Multitype Database Licensing Program.

Objective 5 – Develop a staff training strategy for multitype library initiatives.

Objective 6 – Aggregate, identify, find and implement access to commercial and digitized content.

Key Results

- Held two Digitization Forums in September 2004. There were more than 100 participants at the forums from libraries, archives, museums, and other organizations. The purpose of the forums was to: 1) explore the potential for a province-wide digitization alliance and models for collaboration; 2) educate about digitization standards; and 3) share information about the current digital environment. Forum participants expressed interest in a province-wide digitization alliance. They suggested the types of collaboration that would be useful, pitfalls to avoid, and possible next steps.

- Conducted a survey of the needs, issues, and benefits of digitization. Twenty-three completed surveys were received. The survey identified that many organizations are currently developing digital content. Respondents cited better access to information as the primary benefit of digitization. Other benefits included promotion and preservation. The top three barriers to digitization were sufficient funding, equipment, and training. Survey results are available at: http://www.lib.sk.ca/staff/digitization/surveyresults.html

- Highlighted a commitment to developing a provincial digitization strategy at the Annual General Meeting.

- Served on Saskatchewan Learning's Learning Sector Strategic Plan Committee.

- Enhanced the Multitype Database Licensing Program (MDLP) as follows:

  - Saskatchewan citizen's use of the magazine, journal and newspaper databases provided through MDLP increased by 7%. Citizens performed 1,192,103 searches within the databases.

  - Four new products were licensed by MDLP: The Cochrane Library (database containing a collection of health research and evidence-based medicine reports); Canadian Research Index (citations for scientific and technical reports, statistical and annual reports and policy papers from all levels of Canadian government and institutions); Canada Info Desk (contains the most comprehensive online directory information in Canada); and Serials Solutions (an E-journal Access and Management Suite for libraries).

  - Five new partners joined MDLP: Bethany College Library, Health Quality Council, Prairie Northern Wildlife Research Centre, Saskatchewan Labour Library, and Saskatchewan Research Council Information Services. There are now 39 partners, the highest level since the program began.

  - The MDLP Committee worked with MDLP partner libraries to conduct a survey and evaluation of additional potential products for purchase. They identified three new products to recommend to partners for purchase: Britannica Online, BiblioBranchee, and Index to Canadian Legal Literature (ICLL).

  - In 2004-05 MDLP organized training on all of the database products.

- Communication with MDLP members and the broader library community was improved through the establishment of a regular MDLP Communique and enhancement of MDLP information on the Saskatchewan Libraries web site (www.lib.sk.ca/staff/dblicensing/index.html)

Goal 2 – Expand multitype projects to encompass archives, Aboriginal libraries, museums and other service providers.

Objective 1 – Sponsor a provincial conference.

Key Results

- Held two Digitization Forums in September 2004 (one in Saskatoon and one in Regina). There were more than 100 participants at the forums from libraries, archives, museums, and other organizations.

Strategic Direction 3 – Connect libraries of all types to provide equitable access to and delivery of information.

Broaden the focus to include the way information is developed, organized and presented to the people of Saskatchewan

Networking technology enables multitype partners to collaborate with one another, share information and resources, and deliver information more effectively to patrons. The Board plays a leadership role in ensuring the way information is developed is appropriate, inclusive and easy for the public to find and use.

Performance Indicators

The partner's online services are interoperable, transparent to people, affordable, fast, current, and distant neutral.

Goal 1 -- Work with the library community to develop policy that clearly articulates the intent and implications of one stop access.

Objective 1 – Initiate a high level discussion on how to weave together all the services ensuring easy access.

Objective 2 – Develop a strategy to establish basic standards to support interoperability of information systems and to ensure a common understanding of how to integrate technology standards across information providers.

Objective 3 – Research, evaluate, implement and assess the impact of alternate routes to information resources.

Objective 4 – Organize and participate in a series of think tank/brainstorm sessions on e-information services and the use of appropriate technology.

Key Results

- Held two Digitization Forums that initiated a discussion of ways to weave together the digital collections of multitype partners and began the development of a province-wide digitization strategy that would include the establishment of interoperability standards.
- Received a presentation on the web site of Saskatchewan Association for Community Living, which highlighted accessibility issues in web site design.
- Maintained and updated the Saskatchewan Libraries web site to electronically connect all types of libraries in the province.

- Continued to coordinate multitype participation in the visual recognition project. The visual recognition project uses remote patron authentication software to deliver tailored access to various e-library services provided by each library and allows for online recognition of the library providing the services.

Strategic Direction 4 – Promote participation in the multitype library system.

Promote an image of multitype partners that illustrates their changing and central role in access to information.

An emerging role for the Board is to create and promote a new image of multitype partners that illustrates their changing and central role in access to information. This means ensuring that Saskatchewan people are aware of the information services through multitype partners. It also means updating their image and reinforcing access to information as a democratic right.

Performance indicators

The multitype library system is used and valued by the people in Saskatchewan. Multitype partners are seen as the first stop to accessible, quality information.

Goal 1 – Develop, implement and evaluate a province-wide strategy to aggressively promote the multitype library system, libraries and other information providers.

Objective 1 – Adopt proactive, innovative approaches to promotion, targeting new audiences and using new mechanisms.

Objective 2 – Promote a new image of libraries and librarianship.

Objective 3 – Advance recommendations from the Report of the Multitype Public Relations Committee.

Objective 4 – Establish a monetary fund for Multitype Library Board promotion strategies.

Key Results

- Developed a province-wide library promotion campaign to be launched September 2005. The campaign promotes libraries, in particular their online or "e-library" services. The Multitype Library Board established a Promotion Steering Committee and, subsequently, a Promotion Implementation Working Group to design and implement the campaign. All types of libraries have had input into the design of the campaign including the creation of a common slogan, key messages, promotional products, and other common promotional resources that libraries province-wide can use.

- Maintained the Saskatchewan Libraries Careers section on the Saskatchewan Libraries web site. The Careers section promotes the field of librarianship and other careers available in libraries.

- Updated the *Saskatchewan Libraries Working Together* discussion paper based on consultation with the multitype community. In addition to identifying issues, solutions and recommendations, this paper promotes the value of libraries in Saskatchewan by summarizing the contribution of different types of libraries and information providers.

- Distributed the Multitype Library Board annual report, brochures, and Strategic Plan Update to a variety of libraries, associations, and agencies across Saskatchewan and Canada.

- Continued education and awareness activities at the Annual General Meeting to promote the value of libraries and multitype co-operation.

Multitype Database Licensing Program

Background

In 2004 patrons of Saskatchewan libraries accessed the magazine, journal and newspaper databases 441,777 times. This means usage is up by 29,083 over 2003, or about a 7% increase. Users performed 1,192,103 searches within these databases. This works out to a per use cost of about one dollar, and about 38 cents per search. The total value of the program was about $450,000 in 2004.

The Multitype Database Licensing Program (MDLP) is a province-wide program in which libraries pool funds to purchase bulk access to electronic information resources – magazines, journals, newspapers, directories, reference books, and other information resources. Access is via the Internet through partner library web sites. The program provides access to almost 7,000 unique journal titles in full text.

Partners in 2004/05 included 82 school divisions and 39 libraries covering all ten public library systems; all K to 12 school libraries, through Saskatchewan Learning; the two university library systems, libraries on the four campuses of SIAST, and five small colleges; plus twenty special libraries, and the Provincial Library. Provincial Library takes responsibility for coordination of the program.

The MDLP program has significantly enhanced access to reliable information resources for citizens of Saskatchewan. By pooling funds, the overall contribution needed by any one library is greatly reduced. The program allows all libraries to have access to extensive resources that would otherwise be impossible for a small library to acquire. This program effectively extends access to all residents, the majority of whom still live in small urban, rural or remote communities. The databases can also be accessed from a user's home computer. Through this program, libraries are helping close the digital divide and ensure that all citizens have equitable access to the authoritative, quality information that is so important to learning, work and leisure in a global, knowledge-based economy

The goals of the Multitype Database Licensing Program are:

- to increase the amount of authoritative information available to library users;
- to ensure equitable access to information resources;
- to make these resources accessible in every type of library province-wide;
- to pay for access to these resources only once; and
- to maximize the buying capacity of all libraries through cost-sharing.

Highlights of 2004/2005

1. New Products, New Functionality and New Vendors

The Cochrane Library. The MDLP partnered with the Health Quality Council to add a new health database, The Cochrane Library, for a three-year period. The agreement between the MDLP and Wiley InterScience was completed in August and because of the delay in implementing a new interface, Wiley extended the license to cover the period January 1st, 2005 and to December 31st, 2007. This database contains a collection of evidence-based medicine reports, including systematic reviews of health studies which can be used by Saskatchewan residents to learn about the results of recent health research.

Canadian Research Index and Canada Info Desk. In 2004, the MDLP added two new Micromedia ProQuest databases, the Canadian Research Index and Canada Info Desk to its subscriptions. Canada Info Desk is the most comprehensive online directory package in Canada and it includes: Associations Canada, Canadian Almanac & Directory, Canadian Environmental Directory, Financial Services Canada, Governments Canada, Directory of Libraries in Canada. All six directories plus Canadian Research Index and Education Collection, which is a part of CBCA Education, are available on the new Canadian Information Resource Centre (CIRC II) interface, and can be searched separately, or seamlessly all at the same time, or in any combination.

Serials Solutions. In 2004, the MDLP acquired a subscription to Serials Solutions' E-Journal Access & Management Suite, which provides one A-to-Z list of all of the full-text magazine and journal titles to which MDLP subscribes in both the Gale and Micromedia ProQuest databases. The list can be searched by journal title or browsed by subject. The journal linking function, if used inside the library, provides a clickable link from the list to the actual journal in the database. Provincial Library also purchased MARC records for all full-text titles and imported the records into the Saskatchewan union catalogue (SUNCAT). A user can search a journal title in SUNCAT and be taken directly to that journal in the MDLP licensed databases. The A to Z list also includes the print journals in the Provincial Library's Library Science collection, so users will know that a title is available through Provincial Library even if the journal does not appear in full text in the databases.

Repère. Micromedia lost its rights to distribute Repère, the French language journal database because the publisher, Services documentaires multimedia (SDM), became the sole distributor in Canada. SDM has agreed to continue the subscription to Repère to June 30, 2005, and to extend the subscription to in 2005/06, at the previously negotiated price. As of January 1, 2005 users access Repère on the SDM interface.

2. New Partners

In 2004, five libraries became partners, and contributed financially to, the program. This brings the total number of contributing partner libraries to 39, the highest level since the program was established. The new partners are:
Bethany College Library
Health Quality Council
Prairie Northern Wildlife Research Centre
Saskatchewan Labour Library
Saskatchewan Research Council Information Services

3. Evaluation of New Databases

The Multitype Database Licensing Program conducted a Common Products Survey in late spring and summer of 2004. The survey identified the needs of each library sector and identified some products that would be of interest across all sectors. As a result of the survey, the MDLP committee identified the subject areas and products that needed to be tested and evaluated for possible purchase in the next fiscal year.

Subject Area	Products Tested
Encyclopedias	• Britannica Online • World Book • Grolier Online (Scholastic Library Publishing)
French	• Repère (SDM) • BiblioBranchée (CEDROM)
Science	• Applied Science & Technology (Wilson) • General Science Full Text (Wilson) • Science Resource Center (Gale) • Applied Science & Technology Abstract (EBSCO)
Computer Science	• Computer Database (Gale) • Computer Source (EBSCO)
Canadian Law	• LegalTrac (Gale) • LawSource (Carswell)

Testing took place in November and December 2004. All partner libraries were invited to participate in the testing. Evaluation forms were collected by the sector representatives, who compiled the responses for their sector. Results were reviewed by the MDLP committee and three new products were identified to add to the recommended product list for 2005/06: Britannica Online, BiblioBranchée, and Index to Canadian Legal Literature (ICLL), which is part of LawSource. The MDLP committee is negotiating with Carswell to offer ICLL as a separate, stand-alone product. Price quotes were solicited from each vendor.

4. Usage and Statistics

Because the Micromedia ProQuest databases are now available on either the ProQuest platform, or the CIRC II platform, data on the number of searches performed on the Micromedia databases has become available for the first time in 2004. Libraries are now able to obtain more accurate and meaningful usage statistics that are consistent across the two major database vendors' products and across all library sectors. The new platform allows retrieval of statistics that relate solely to a particular library. In total, in 2004, residents of Saskatchewan accessed the MDLP databases 441,777 times, an increase of about 7%. As well, users performed 1,192,103 searches. Usage of the InfoTrac databases appears to have stabilized but use of the Micromedia databases continues to show significant increases, 34% this year.

5. Training

In 2004 all database vendors came to Saskatchewan to provide training on their products.

Micromedia provided training on Canadian Newsstand and CBCA from March 29 to April 2 in Moose Jaw, North Battleford, Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon, and Yorkton with a total of 207 people attending.

Gale training sessions were held from September 27 to 29 in Weyburn, Regina, and Saskatoon with 95 participants.

Wiley InterScience came to Saskatchewan, for the first time, to provide training on The Cochrane Library. Sessions were held in Weyburn, Prince Albert, Regina, and Saskatoon from September 27 to 30 with 117 people in attendance.

6. Communication and Promotion

With increased demands for better communication with partners regarding MDLP information, the committee formally adopted the Communiqué format, already established by the Multitype Library Board (MLB). The communiqué has been used to inform partners about training opportunities, changes to existing subscriptions, and new product testing and evaluation in 2004. Also, the database listservs, set up by Provincial Library to communicate with partner libraries, were expanded to reach more members including the Virtual Reference Working Group, regional directors of education, and curriculum consultants.

The MDLP participated in the Promotion Steering Committee, created in May 2004, to work on a province-wide multitype approach to promoting the value of libraries and online library services. Cara Bradley, Pat Kolesar and Naomi Kral represented the MDLP on the committee.

7. Web Page Development

The MDLP committee created a special sub-committee to work on changes to the MDLP portion of the Saskatchewan Libraries web site. The MDLP pages now include committee information, program news, history and training.

Subject categories, which were created to assist patrons to access the appropriate database, were revised with advice from the Virtual Reference Working Group. These subject headings cover all of the MDLP databases as well as some free databases, also recommended by the Reference Group.

The Serials Solutions' A-to-Z list is hosted on the Saskatchewan Libraries web site. Users can search or browse the list to find a full-text E-journal title from the province-wide licensed databases.

Remote Patron Authentication (RPA) now functions on a number of partner libraries' web sites, allowing them to provide home access to their users. MDLP is working with these libraries to create web pages that look and feel like the partner library's web site but interact with the RPA server and offer access via the subject categories.

The MDLP web site address is:
www.lib.sk.ca/staff/dblicensing/index.html

Strategic Initiatives for 2005

The following priorities have been identified for 2005-06.

1. New Database Products

Britannica Online. All library sectors expressed an interest in acquiring access to an online encyclopedia. The Committee is recommending Britannica Online for 2005/06.

BiblioBranchée. This database provides access to 33 French language newspapers and includes some television transcripts.

Index to Canadian Legal Literature. MDLP's previous subscription to ICLL was cancelled, after Micromedia ProQuest lost its rights to it. Without it, the program lacks Canadian legal content.

2. New Functionality

Power Search. Gale has launched its new platform, Power Search, which provides cross-database searching capability that allows a user to search all, or a selected group, of the licensed Gale databases, with a single search query. Power Search returns all search results at the same time, grouped by format. The committee is reviewing this functionality and will recommend its implementation, after it has been tested and once it includes the primary Canadian content found in CPI.Q.

Serials Solutions. The Committee recommends canceling the MARC record portion of the Serials Solution subscription because most users will not be using SUNCAT, the Saskatchewan union catalogue.

3. Training
Vendor training will be offered by Gale, Micromedia and Wiley from April 19 to 22. Vendors will participate in the SLA 2005 pre-conference session. Locations will be determined according to partner libraries' needs. Gale is also willing to provide training sessions in the Fall of 2005.

The MDLP Committee will review the outcomes of previous training activities and identify new and continuing partner training needs. New strategies to meet these needs will be developed.

4. Promotion
The committee recommends that MDLP participate in the province-wide promotion campaign to encourage greater awareness of the value of the databases to provide users with authoritative information.

Financial Contributors

Post-Secondary Education Libraries
Bethany College Library
Briercrest Family of Schools, Archibald Library
Central Pentecostal College, A. C. Schindel Library
Gabriel Dumont Institute Library
Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology, SIAST Libraries
St. Peter's Abbey and College Library
University of Regina, Dr. John Archer Library
University of Saskatchewan Libraries

Public Libraries
Chinook Regional Library
Lakeland Library Region
Pahkisimon Nuye?áh Library System
Palliser Regional Library
Parkland Regional Library
Regina Public Library
Saskatoon Public Library
Southeast Regional Library
Wapiti Regional Library
Wheatland Regional Library

Special Libraries
Credit Union Central of Saskatchewan, Resource Centre
Health Quality Council, Library
Law Society of Saskatchewan, Library
POS Pilot Plant Corporation, Information Services
Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute Library
Prairie Northern Wildlife Research Centre
Regina Qu'Appelle Health District, Health Sciences Library
Resource Centre for Sport, Culture and Recreation
Royal Canadian Mounted Police Training Academy, Learning Resource Centre
Saskatchewan First Nations and Metis Relations Library
Saskatchewan Community Resources and Employment
Saskatchewan Forest Centre, Library
Saskatchewan Health Resource Centre
Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation, Resource Centre
Saskatchewan Labour Library
Saskatchewan Learning Resource Centre (included in Saskatchewan Learning's contribution)
Saskatchewan Legislative Library
Saskatchewan Provincial Auditor's Office Library
Saskatchewan Research Council Information Services.
Saskatchewan Teacher's Federation, Stewart Resource Centre

School Libraries
82 school divisions through Saskatchewan Learning, on behalf of all K-12 school libraries in Saskatchewan

Provincial Library

Current Products Licensed – Listed by Vendor

Thomson Gale
Business and Company Resource Center
Business Index ASAP
CPI.Q (Canadian Periodicals)
Discovering Collection
Expanded Academic ASAP
General Business File ASAP
General Reference Center
General Reference Center Gold
Health and Wellness Resource Center
Health Reference Center Academic
InfoTrac OneFile
Junior Edition
Kids InfoBits
LegalTrac
Literature Resource Center
Student Edition

Micromedia ProQuest
Canada Info Desk, includes:
Associations Canada
Canadian Almanac & Directory
Canadian Environmental Directory
Directory of Libraries in Canada
Financial Services Canada
Governments Canada
Canadian Newsstand Major Dailies
Canadian Newsstand Prairies (includes Saskatchewan weeklies)
Canadian Research Index
CBCA (includes CBCA Business, Current Events, Education, and Reference)
Repère Fulltext (July – December 2004)

Wiley InterScience
The Cochrane Library

Services documentaires multimedia
Repère (January – June 2005)

The Multitype Database Licensing Program Committee

The Multitype Library Board established a committee to administer the Multitype Database Licensing Program (MDLP) consisting of at least two representatives from each library sector. Committee members are responsible for consulting with their sector regarding development of the program and bringing their sector's concerns to the committee table. Committee members evaluate information databases, coordinate financial contributions from their sector, and make recommendations to partner libraries about what products to fund. In addition they make decisions about how to implement the strategic directions set by the annual meeting and coordinate input from partner libraries.

Committee recommendations are provided to the Multitype Library Board and to its annual meeting, which establishes the broad strategic directions; approves a purchasing/renewal strategy for the upcoming year; and recommends financial commitments to seek from partner libraries.

Provincial Library negotiates license agreements with vendors to acquire province-wide licenses on behalf of the program; coordinates partner funding; establishes database access through IP address and remote patron authentication methods; resolves access problems; and provides secretariat support to the MDLP committee.

2004/05 Committee Members

Post-secondary Education Libraries
Barbara Nelke, University of Regina Library
Beverley Brooks, SIAST Palliser Campus
Vicky Duncan, University of Saskatchewan Libraries

School Libraries
Joanne Beltramini, Regina Catholic Schools
Delee Cameron, Naomi Kral and Ray Robertson, Saskatchewan Learning

Special Libraries
Charlene Kramer, Saskatchewan Learning Resource Centre
Angela Battiste, Saskatchewan Forest Centre
Pat Kolesar and Jane Blackett
Saskatchewan Legislative Library
Cara Bradley, Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, Health Resource Center

Public Libraries
Patricia Caldwell, Saskatoon Public Library
Rosemary Oddie, Regina Public Library

Multitype Library Board
Amy Rankin, A/Manager of Multitype Library Development, Provincial Library

Provincial Library
Marilyn Jenkins and Jack Ma, Provincial Library

MDLP Usage Statistics

Access means the number of times a user entered, or logged on to one of the databases/interfaces to begin searching.

Search means a specific query submitted through a search form to either one or several databases within a single interface. A single log-in could result in a number of searches.

InfoTrac	2003				2004			
	Access	%	Search	%	Access	%	Search	%
Post-secondary	153,262	50%	501,905	52%	148,390	50%	474,376	51%
Public	41,544	14%	130,800	14%	41,126	14%	138,260	15%
School	99,911	33%	297,839	31%	97,552	33%	294,927	32%
Special	8,078	3%	24,974	3%	7,515	3%	19,060	2%
TOTAL	302,795	100%	955,491	100%	294,583	100%	926,623	100%

Micromedia ProQuest	2002		2003		2004			
	Access	%	Access	%	Access	%	Search	%
Post-secondary*	32,246	79%	83,736	76%	109,035	74.2%	201,528	77%
Public	2,801	7%	9,002	8%	13,976	9.5%	18,532	6%
School	2,472	6%	11,865	11%	16,764	11.4%	37,559	14%
Special	3,373	8%	5,296	5%	7,090	4.9%	8,861	3%
TOTAL	40,892	100%	109,899	100%	146,865	100%	266,480	100%

** The data for post-secondary education libraries includes all ProQuest products that do not belong to the MDLP at two universities.*

Total Number of Accesses and Searches

	2002	2003	2004	
	Access	Access	Access	Search
InfoTrac	210,382	302,795	294,583	926,623
Micromedia ProQuest	40,892	109,899	146,865	266,480
EBSCOhost	31,888			
The Cochrane Library			329	
Total	283,162	412,694	441,777	1,192,103

Notes:
Usage statistics for The Cochrane Library only provide the number of accesses.
Micromedia ProQuest statistics do not include the number of searches on the former CIRC interface.
For the six month period, from July to December 2004, there were 1,646 searches performed in Serials Solutions' E-Journal Portal (A-to-Z list).